

REMARKS

This is a Reply to the Office Action of June 7, 2007. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

Status of Claims

Claims 9-36 are pending. Claims 9 and 22 are independent.

Claims 14 and 27 are objected to for minor informalities. Claims 13-19 and 26-32 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 22-30 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 USC 101 for being directed to nonstatutory subject matter. Claims 9-17, 22-30 and 34-36 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 5,956,487 to Venkatraman et al. (“Venkatraman”). Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman in view of USPN 5,974,449 (“Chang”). Claims 20, 21 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman in view of USPN 5,432,789 (“Armstrong”). Claims 31 and 32 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman and Armstrong in view of Chang.

Claims Amendments

By way of this Reply, claims 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 30 and 31 have been responsively amended to correct minor informalities and antecedent basis. Accordingly, withdrawal of objections to claims 14 and 27, and rejections of claims 13-19 and 26-32 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21-23, 24, 25, 28, 29 and 33 have been additionally amended for clarification purposes. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments and none of the above amendments is made in view of prior art.

Rejection under 35 USC §101

Rejection of claims 22-30 and 33-36 under 35 USC 101 is respectfully traversed because the claims are directed to a system comprising devices, and thus are clearly statutory. The rejection has been based on equating the claimed “device” to software despite the teachings of the specification, which Applicant respectfully disagrees with. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22-30 and 33-36 is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(e)

Rejection of claims 9-17, 22-30 and 34-36 under §102(e) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman is respectfully traversed because for at least the following reasons, Venkatraman does not disclose all of the claimed limitations.

The claimed invention is directed to a method and system for a server device to communicate with a client device in a home network. Independent claim 9 requires, in part, “(b) receiving a second request signal **requesting a web page contained within said server device**, wherein said second request signal is **generated in response to said server device characteristic data;**” and “(c) sending said web page in response to said second request signal” (emphases added). Independent claim 22 has similar limitations. The second request signal is generated based on feedback from the server device. This provides communications between

server and client devices in the claimed home network. By contrast, Venkatraman fails to disclose at least the above-mentioned claimed limitations.

The instant Office Action has equated the *other web pages* in Venkatraman to the claimed “web page contained within said server device.” Applicant respectfully disagrees. Col. 7, lines 5-14 of Venkatraman (relied upon in the instant Office Action) reads:

The hyperlinks 66-68 defined in the HTML file shown above direct the web browser 40 to other web pages for various printer support functions. For example, the hyperlink 66 “Service Contract” may be selected by the user with the selection device 44 to direct the web browser 40 to the URL “<http://www.hpsc.com>” for information regarding printer service contracts. Similarly, hyperlinks 67 and 68 provide *links to web pages for ordering printer supplies* and obtaining information for future printer products from the manufacturer of the printer device 10. (Emphasis added).

From the above passage, it is clear that the *other web pages* as taught by Venkatraman are external web pages, located for example in the printer manufacturer’s websites, *not* “within the sever device” as claimed.

Further, col. 7, lines 15-22 of Venkatraman states:

The web page 18 for the printer may also include manuals, parts lists, and other associated publications. These publication may be stored within the device 10 in, for example, a nonvolatile memory, or may be referenced *elsewhere via hyperlinks* contained in the web page 18. These publications contain dynamic information such as updated manuals as well as new and updated software driver routines for the device 10. (Emphasis added).

From the above passage, it is clear that whenever a hyperlink is used, associated publications are stored elsewhere, *i.e.*, outside the device 10. Though when not referenced via hyperlinks, the publications may be stored within the device 10, such publications are clearly *not* the web pages as claimed.

Further, the instant Office Action has equated the *directing browser to other web pages* as taught by Venkatraman to the claimed “(c) sending said web page in response to said second request signal.” Applicant again respectfully disagrees. Not only are the other web pages in Venkatraman different from the claimed “said web page,” the step of *directing* to other web pages in Venkatraman is also clearly different from the claimed step of “sending” the web page.

Applicant further respectfully submits that contrary to the assertions in the instant Office Action, Venkatraman is silent with respect to the claimed “said second request signal is generated in response to said server device characteristic data.” The instant Office Action has equated the *HTTP command requesting other web pages* as taught by Venkatraman to the claimed “second request signal.” Applicant respectfully disagrees.

HTTP commands, as taught by Venkatraman, are commands following standard HyperText Transfer Protocol (*see, e.g.*, col. 3, lines 5-26 of Venkatraman). There is nothing in Venkatraman showing or suggesting that such commands are “generated in response to said server device characteristic data” as claimed.

For at least the above reasons, independent claims 9 and 22 are patentable over Venkatraman. Dependent claims 10-17, 23-30 and 34-36 are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Regarding claims 12 and 25, Applicant respectfully submits that Venkatraman also fails to disclose the claimed “menu for **selecting** said server device” (emphasis added). The instant Office Action relies upon col. 3, lines 36-40 of Venkatraman to equate the web page 18 disclosed therein to the claimed “menu.” Applicant respectfully disagrees. The web page 18 in Venkatraman is contained within the device 10 itself, as clearly shown in Fig. 1B of Venkatraman. Such a web page does not allow selection of device 10 among other server devices. As further clarified through claim amendments, the claimed “menu” includes “a plurality of server devices” from which said server device can be selected. By contrast, the web page 18 of Venkatraman is merely a web page of a single device 10 contained within the device 10 itself, and thus cannot be equivalent to the claimed “menu.” Thus, claims 12 and 25 are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

Regarding claims 14 and 27, Applicant further respectfully submits that Venkatraman also fails to disclose the claimed “device link page.” The instant Office Action has equated the web page 18 of Venkatraman to the claimed “device link page.” However, such a web page 18 of Venkatraman clearly does not refer to “a plurality of server devices” as claimed, and thus cannot be equivalent to the claimed “device link page.” Figure 3 of Venkatraman also clearly shows that the web page 18 relied upon by the instant Office Action is merely a home page for a printer 10, that is, the web page 18 *contained* in the memory 210 of the printer 10 [as shown in

Fig. 1B of Venkatraman. The web page 18 does not link to any other devices, nor does it link to the printer 10 itself because it is already a part of the printer 10. Thus, the web page 18 of Venkatraman is *not* the same as the claimed “device link page.” Thus, claims 14 and 27 are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

Regarding claims 16 and 29, Applicant further respectfully submits that the rejection as set forth in the instant Office Action, which relies upon col. 6, lines 27-55, actually clearly describes that the web page 18 is a home page for the individual device 10, and should not be equated to the claimed “device link page.” Consequently, the HTML file of the web page 18 cannot be equated to the claimed “device link file.” Thus, claims 16 and 29 are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 9-17, 22-30 and 34-36 is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 18 and 19

Rejection of claims 18 and 19 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman in view of Chang is respectfully traversed because the claims include limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination.

As discussed above, the instant Office Action has equated an individual home page 18 contained within an individual device 10 as taught by Venkatraman to the claimed “device link page,” which is respectfully traversed. Figure 3 of Venkatraman clearly shows that the web page 18 relied upon by the instant Office Action is merely a home page for a printer 10, that is, the web page 18 *contained* in the memory 210 of the printer 10 as shown in Fig. 1B of Venkatraman. The web page 18 does not link to any other devices, nor does it link to the printer 10 itself because it is already a part of the printer 10. Thus, the web page 18 of Venkatraman is *not* the same as the claimed “device link page.”

Chang also fails to show or suggest the claimed “device link page.” Further, Applicant respectfully submits that, contrary to the assertions by the instant Office Action, Chang also fails to show or suggest the claimed “converting the plurality of logical device names to the device controls.” Col. 8, lines 63-67 of Chang, relied upon by the instant Office Action, clearly describes the purported device logical name sf_cp.com as the *u-mail address*. Correspondingly, a subscriber of the web page having the name “john doe” would have an URL http://sf_cp.com/joe. Thus, it appears that the instant Office Action has incorrectly equated an external, world wide web server address such as an email address, as taught by Chang, to the claimed “logical name” of the “server device” within a home network. Applicant respectfully disagrees with such interpretation of Chang. Chang teaches that a single web server, i.e., a web mail server, supports a plurality of user emails including that of John Doe while such email addresses do *not* correspond to *any* devices. By contrast, claims 18 and 19 require “a plurality of server devices” corresponding to a plurality of logical device names.

In view of the above, Venkatraman and Chang, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the claimed invention as recited in claims 18 and 19 of the present application. Thus, claims 18 and 19 of the present application are patentable over Venkatraman and Chang for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 20, 21 and 33

Rejection of claims 20, 21 and 33 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman in view of Armstrong is respectfully traversed because the claims include limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether considered separately or in combination.

As discussed above, the instant Office Action has equated an individual home page contained within an individual device as taught by Venkatraman to the claimed “device link page,” which is respectfully traversed. Armstrong similarly fails to show or suggest the claimed “device link page.” Thus, claims 20, 21 and 33 are patentable over Venkatraman and Armstrong for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 31 and 32

Rejection of claims 31 and 32 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatraman and Armstrong in view of Chang is respectfully traversed because the claims include limitations not taught or suggested by the cited references, whether considered separately or in any combination.

As discussed above, the instant Office Action has equated an individual home page contained within an individual device as taught by Venkatraman to the claimed “device link page,” which is respectfully traversed. As also discussed above, neither Armstrong nor Chang show or suggest the claimed “device link page.”

Applicant further respectfully submitted that the cited references also fail to show or suggest the claimed “converting the logical device name to a device control.” The instant Office Action has relied upon Chang to supply such a conversion. However, Chang does not disclose the claimed “logical device name” at all.

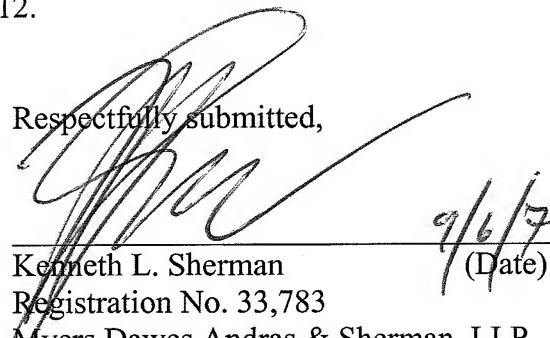
Thus, claims 31 and 32 are patentable over Venkatraman, Armstrong and Chang for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and that the case be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would be helpful to the further prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the listed telephone number.

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Respectfully submitted,


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